



WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101

Faculty Senate

TO: THE FACULTY, WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

FROM: THE CHAIR OF THE FACULTY SENATE, TOM JONES

DATE: MAY 7, 1978

SUBJECT: A SUMMARY OF SENATE ACTIVITIES; OBSERVATIONS

Dear Colleagues,

This note is being sent to you at the behest of the Executive Committee of the Senate. Our hope is to inform you, in lieu of last year's promised newsletter (which will be coming out next year regularly), of Senate doings and future expectations.

- * The Second Faculty Senate, reorganized and with new officers and committees, is fully functioning. The new office is in Ivan Wilson Center for Fine Arts, room 268. The telephone number is unchanged: 745-5325. I must divide my time between that office and the English Department--and at the latter a message may always be left: 745-3043.
- * You should have had from your departmental representative a list of the new Senate officers and of the new committees. It is one of his/her functions to provide you with such information.
- * Last fall an ad hoc committee, chaired by Joan Krenzin, completed a report on faculty years in service. The Senate voted to disseminate this report to all faculty and interested administrators. Your departmental Senator should provide you with a copy.
- * You should have had access to the Lucas and Glaser ad hoc committee reports on administrator growth and structure. These reports will be discussed additionally at the meeting of the Senate May 11, 1978.
- * A committee will be working this summer on a new promotional guideline procedure, at the request of the President. This is most important. Contact Senator Jim Parks if you have ideas or concerns you want to express.

- * I would like to make a personal observation: the Senate is still new; much scepticism surrounded its beginning. This was seen especially regarding the administrator evaluation--many faculty believing that because the evaluation was being done without the official cooperation and blessing of the administration it would be ignored. However, I was personally invited, as Chair of the Senate, to attend the April Board of Regents meeting, where I was also introduced to the Board. I then observed this: the President finished his remarks to the Board, the Chairman (David Cole) asked whether that was all, and the President said that was all he had.

Chairman Cole then pointed out that the Board understood that the Faculty Senate had recently completed an evaluation of the entire administration, and that the Board would like to see the results. The President then expressed his opinion of the evaluation by saying, "I want the Board to understand exactly what it is receiving, when it receives these materials...." and then continued to indicate that he felt that the evaluation was not "official," because the administration had not made it "policy." Chairman Cole heard the President out and then repeated that the Board would like to have the results. The President said that he would comply. As of this writing, I have had no additional contact with the President.

My point here--made by one who believes deeply in the potential value of the Senate to the full faculty and to Western Kentucky University--is that this semester, and specifically in that Board meeting, the Faculty Senate was validated fully: our actions were observed; our advice was listened to, at least by the Board of Regents.

- * Finally, the Senate seems more and more to fulfill a function of opening up heretofore closed bodies of information. Records, methods of operation, reasons why things are done as they are--matters till now known and understood by very few of the faculty--are more and more accessible. And I would like to observe that the Senate has, generally, had perfect cooperation from the administration, in their opening their records to us, in their meeting with our committees, and, especially on the part of Vice President Jim Davis, in advising the Chair when he has asked for advice. In an era when WKU must look more and more to the Council on Higher Education for monies and programs, it seems evident that we all benefit from working together.